

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8105
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 37441

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, GE, CW, US
SUBJECT: CALL BY GDR AMBASSADOR DR. WERNER FLECK

REF: (A) BONN 2122; (B) BERLIN 7222

1. IN FIRST COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR RUSH THE NEW GDR AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, DR. WERNER FLECK, EMPHASIZED GDR'S INTENTION TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND ITS RELATIONS WITH US, FRANCE AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE FRG. FLECK NOTED THAT THIS BASIC POLICY LINE HAD BEEN RECONFIRMED IN WILLY STOPH'S RECENT DECLARATION TO THE VOLKSKAMMER ON THE USUAL CONDITION OF SCRUPULOUS RESPECT FOR THE SEPARATENESS, INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE GDR.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION FLECK SAID GDR WAS PLEASED THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD EVIDENTLY "RECEIVED" STOPH'S MESSAGE AND HAD RECIPROCATED IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE PO-
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SITIVE SPIRIT IN SECTION OF FRG POLICY STATEMENT ON GERMANY AND BERLIN JUST DELIVERED TO THE BUNDESTAG (REF A).

3. GDR DETERMINATION TO DEVELOP AND FLESH OUT SYSTEM OF INTER-GERMAN AGREEMENTS ON BASIS OF EQUALITY WILL

CONSEQUENTLY CONTINUE TO CONSTITUTE CENTRAL THREAD OF BERLIN'S POLICY. EVEN SO THERE WERE STILL SERIOUS IRRITANTS PLAGUING THIS RELATIONSHIP. CENTRAL IN THIS REGARD WAS ATTITUDE OF FRG CONSTITUTIONAL COURT AT KARLSRUHE WHICH REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE EXISTENCE OF INTER-GERMAN BORDER. THIS IN TURN GIVES RISE TO "VERY DISTURBING" ISSUES LIKE THE WEINHELD ACQUITTAL (REF B) WHICH HAS PROFOUNDLY OFFENDED GDR. AMBASSADOR RUSH PARRIED BY REFERRING TO CONSTANT EXTRADITION PROBLEMS WESTERN COUNTRIES ALSO HAVE EVEN WITH EACH OTHER.

4. ON BERLIN FLECK COMMENTED IN LOW KEY THAT, AS NUMBER OF UNSPECIFIED RECENT INSTANCES SHOW, WE SHOULD AVOID READING MORE INTO QA THAN IT CONTAINED, SINCE GDR HAD TO RESIST SUCH "UNILATERAL INTERPRETATIONS." HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE AMBASSADOR RUSH'S COMMENTS THAT OCCASIONAL EAST-WEST DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION OF QA SHOULD BE RESOLVED IN A NON-CONFRONTATIONAL SPIRIT, FLECK AGREED AND THOUGHT BERLIN SITUATION WOULD IN FACT CONTINUE MOVE ALONG ON THE PRESENT, FAIRLY PEACEFUL BASIS.

5. FLECK WAS PERSONALLY CORDIAL. HE SAW HIS MISSION IN PARIS NOT AS "OPPOSING ANYONE." HE HAD, FOR INSTANCE, ALREADY CALLED ON HIS FRG COUNTERPART. HE EXPECTED TO WORK "AS AN EQUAL" ON THE RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS AND THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE GDR'S RELATIONS WITH FRANCE.

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